

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DRC-01

/058 W

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R 181325Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5821

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

UNCLAS GABORONE 1288

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BC,MI, SF

SUBJ: GOB RELEASES FINDINGS ON WENELA DC-4 CRASH AT FRANCISTOWN

REF : GABORONE 0821

DEPT PASS FAA AND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

LAGOS FOR FAA

1. THE OFFICIAL RESULTS OF THE GOB INQUIRY, RELEASED SEPT. 17, INTO THE CAUSES OF THE APRIL 7, 1974 WENELA (MINE LABOR ORGANIZATION) DC-4 CRASH AT FRANCISTOWN, WHICH LEFT 77 DEAD, CONCLUDES THAT THE DISASTER WAS DUE TO THE "ACT, DEFAULT, OR NEGLIGENCE OF SHELL AND BP MARKETING SERVICES (PTY) LTD. OR OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY".

2. THE COMPANY IS BLAMED FOR MIXING TURBOPROP (AVTUR) FUEL WITH NORMAL AVIATION GASOLINE (AVGAS) REQUIRED BY A DC-4, IN A PERCENTAGE BETWEEN 9 AND 39 PERCENT.

3. THE INQUIRY ALSO FAULTED THE PRIVATE, WENELA-OWNED FRANCISTOWN

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AIRPORT FOR LACK OF FIRST-AID-FACILITIES, AMBULANCES, AND RESCUE

VEHICLES. ALTHOUGH THE AIRCREW WAS NOT BLAMED, THE REPORT NOTED THAT PASSENGERS HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS AS TO EMERGENCY EXITS AND CRASH PROCEDURES.

4. SHELL AND BP MARKETING HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO PAY THE COSTS OF THE INQUIRY, WHICH RECOMMENDED, INTER ALIA, THAT THE POSITION OF THE WENELA-OWNED AIRPORT BE REVIEWED, THAT AN AIRPORT MANAGER WITH OVERALL OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY BE APPOINTED, AND THAT ADEQUATE FIREFIGHTING AND FIRST-AID EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS TRAINED PERSONNEL BE REQUIRED.

BOLEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, DEATHS, INVESTIGATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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